



**PROPOSED RULE MAKING  
(RCW 34.05.320)**

**CR-102 (7/22/01)**  
**Do NOT use for expedited  
rule making**

Agency: Department of Fish and Wildlife

- ☒ Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 03-02-102; or  
☐ Expedited Rule Making -- Proposed notice was filed as WSR \_\_\_\_\_; or  
☐ Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4).

- ☒ Original Notice  
☐ Supplemental Notice  
to WSR \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Continuance of WSR \_\_\_\_\_

(a) Title of rule: (Describe Subject)

Purpose:  
Amend WAC 232-28-515 Trapping seasons and regulations.

Other identifying information: none

(b) Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 77.12.047

Statute being implemented: RCW 77.12.047

(c) Summary:

The recommended change is status quo trapping seasons with calendar date changes only. Clarification is also recommended on trapping seasons in Columbia County on tribal lands.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Furbearer populations appear to be stable to increasing.

(d) Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for:	Office Location	Telephone
1. Drafting.....Dave Brittell, Assistant Director	NRB-Olympia	360.902.2504
2. Implementation.... Dave Brittell, Assistant Director	NRB-Olympia	360.902.2504
3. Enforcement..... Bruce Bjork, Assistant Director	NRB-Olympia	360.902.2932

(e) Name of proponent (person or organization): Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

- ☐ Private  
☐ Public  
☒ Governmental

(f) Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement and fiscal matters:  
None

(g) Is rule necessary because of:

Federal Law?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, ATTACH COPY OF TEXT Citation:
Federal Court Decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
State Court Decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

(h) HEARING LOCATION:

Moses Lake Convention Center  
1475 Nelson Road, Moses Lake, Washington 98837

Date: April 11-12, 2003 Time: 8:00 a.m.

Assistance for persons with disabilities:  
Contact Susan Yeager by 4/7/03

TDD (360) 902-2207 or (360) 902-2267

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)

Evan Jacoby

SIGNATURE

TITLE

Rules Coordinator

DATE

3/5/03

Submit written comments to:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Attn: Dave Brittell  
600 Capitol Way North  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091  
FAX (360) 902-2162 By (date) 3/25/03

DATE OF INTENDED ADOPTION: April 11, 2003

**CODE REVISER USE ONLY**

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

(j) Short explanation of rule, its purpose, and anticipated effects:

Rule establishes trapping seasons and bag limits for furbearer species. The purpose is to maximize trapping opportunity consistent with population objectives. The anticipated effect is status quo seasons with sustainable furbearer populations.

Does proposal change existing rules? ☒ YES ☐ NO

If yes, describe changes:

Calendar date changes to establish 2003-2005 furbearer trapping seasons and bag limits. Clarifies trapping regulations in Columbia County.

(k) Has a small business economic impact statement been prepared under chapter 19.85 RCW?

☒ Yes. Attach copy of small business economic impact statement.

A copy of the statement may be obtained by writing to:

Wildlife Program

Attn: Dave Brittell

600 Capitol Way North

Olympia, WA 98501-1091

telephoning: (     )

faxing: (     )

☐ No. Explain why no statement was prepared

(l) Does RCW 34.05.328 apply to this rule adoption? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Please explain: Not hydraulics rules.

## SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

### WAC 232-28-515 Trapping seasons and regulations

1. **Description of reporting, record keeping and other compliance measures required by proposal:** Trappers are required to report their harvest using the “Trapper’s Report of Catch” form by April 10 of each year. This is not a new requirement.
2. **Professional services required for compliance:** None
3. **Costs of compliance, including costs of equipment, supplies, labor, and increased administrative costs:** None
4. **Will compliance cost businesses to lose sales or revenue?** No
5. **Comparison of costs for the 10% of businesses that are the largest businesses required to comply with the proposed rule:** No additional costs
6. **Steps taken by agency to reduce the costs of the rule on small businesses.** No costs to small businesses
7. **Description of how the agency will involve small businesses in rule development.**  
All small businesses have an opportunity to comment on rule development through written and oral comment periods.
8. **List of industries required to comply with this rule:** All licensed trappers that trap furbearers for fur commerce.

**WAC 232-28-515 Trapping seasons and regulations.**

Trapping Regulations

To be issued your first Washington State trapping license an individual must pass the Washington State trapper education exam.

A trapping license will only be issued to a trapper that has returned the mandatory trapper report of catch postmarked on or before April 10 of the previous year. A trapper that fails to submit a report of catch must wait one year before purchasing another trapping license. False reports will be considered the same as failure to return the catch report.

It is unlawful to: Trap for wild animals before October 1, and after March 15, in western Washington, except that owners of, or persons legally controlling a property (or their designee) may trap unclassified wild animals that are causing damage or depredating on said property.

It is unlawful to: Place traps or establish drowning wires and weights prior to 7:00 a.m. on the opening date of the trapping season. All opening and closing season dates are inclusive.

Trapping Seasons:

General Western Washington Trapping Seasons (Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Whatcom counties):

SPECIES	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
Bobcat, Red Fox, and Weasel	<del>((November 18, 2000</del>	<del>((February 15, 2001</del>
	<del>November 17, 2001</del>	<del>February 15, 2002</del>
	<del>November 16, 2002))</del>	<del>February 15, 2003))</del>
	November 15, 2003	February 15, 2004
	November 20, 2004	February 15, 2005
	November 19, 2005	February 15, 2006
Marten, Mink, Muskrat, and Raccoon	<del>((November 18, 2000</del>	<del>((January 31, 2001</del>
	<del>November 17, 2001</del>	<del>January 31, 2002</del>
	<del>November 16, 2002))</del>	<del>January 31, 2003))</del>
	November 15, 2003	January 31, 2004
	November 20, 2004	January 31, 2005
	November 19, 2005	January 31, 2006
Beaver and River Otter	<del>((December 9, 2000</del>	<del>((February 15, 2001</del>
	<del>December 8, 2001</del>	<del>February 15, 2002</del>
	<del>December 14, 2002))</del>	<del>February 15, 2003))</del>
	December 13, 2003	February 15, 2004
	December 11, 2004	February 15, 2005
	December 10, 2005	February 15, 2006

Exceptions to General Western Washington Trapping Seasons:

Game Management Unit 522 (Loo-wit) (Cowlitz and Skamania counties) is closed to all trapping.

#### Island County

The red fox season is closed.

#### Lewis County

Green River drainage, above and including Miners Creek drainage, is closed to all trapping except for bobcat and coyote.

#### Skagit and Whatcom counties

Ross Lake National Recreation Area is closed to all trapping. Red fox season is closed, except within the boundaries of Mount Baker-Snoqualmie and Okanogan National Forests.

#### Skamania County

The following areas are closed to all trapping, except for bobcat and coyote: Muddy River drainage, above and including Bean Creek drainage; Pine Creek drainage above USFS Road 83; and Green River drainage, above and including Miners Creek drainage.

General Eastern Washington Trapping Seasons (Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman, and Yakima counties):

SPECIES	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
Badger, Beaver, Bobcat, Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Red Fox, and Weasel	(( <del>November 11, 2000</del> <del>November 10, 2001</del> <del>November 9, 2002</del> )) <u>November 8, 2003</u> <u>November 13, 2004</u> <u>November 12, 2005</u>	(( <del>February 28, 2001</del> <del>February 28, 2002</del> <del>February 28, 2003</del> )) <u>February 28, 2004</u> <u>February 28, 2005</u> <u>February 28, 2006</u>
Marten	(( <del>December 15, 2000</del> <del>December 15, 2001</del> <del>December 15, 2002</del> )) <u>December 15, 2003</u> <u>December 15, 2004</u> <u>December 15, 2005</u>	(( <del>January 31, 2001</del> <del>January 31, 2002</del> <del>January 31, 2003</del> )) <u>January 31, 2004</u> <u>January 31, 2005</u> <u>January 31, 2006</u>
River Otter (Season Bag Limit is 6 River Otter in Eastern Washington)	(( <del>November 11, 2000</del> <del>November 10, 2001</del> <del>November 9, 2002</del> )) <u>November 8, 2003</u> <u>November 13, 2004</u> <u>November 12, 2005</u>	(( <del>February 28, 2001</del> <del>February 28, 2002</del> <del>February 28, 2003</del> )) <u>February 28, 2004</u> <u>February 28, 2005</u> <u>February 28, 2006</u>

Exceptions to General Eastern Washington Trapping Seasons:

River otter trapping season is closed in all Eastern Washington counties, except that it is open in Chelan, Ferry, Klickitat,

Kittitas, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Yakima counties, as well as in the Snake and Walla Walla River drainages.

Chelan County

Beaver season is closed in Swakane and Mudd Creek drainages.

Columbia County

Trapping is not allowed on the Umatilla Tribes Rainwater Wildlife Area in Columbia County, as per their management plan.

Kittitas County

Beaver season is closed in the following drainages: North fork of Tarpiscan Creek and Umtanum Creek.

Urban Trapping Areas: Special Regulations and Trap Restrictions

The following described areas are closed to the taking of classified furbearing animals, and coyote, opossum, nutria, and skunk, by the use of body-gripping or kill traps **except** by permit under WAC 232-12-141.

Thurston County, within the established city limits (including county islands) of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater.

Within Snohomish, King, and Pierce counties: Beginning at the confluence of Snohomish River and Puget Sound; east up Snohomish River to Interstate 5 (I-5); south on I-5 to Interstate 405 (I-405); south on I-405 to I-5; south on I-5 to Pioneer Way; east on Pioneer Way to Waller Road; south on Waller Road to SR 512; west on SR 512 to Highway 7; south on Highway 7 and Highway 507 to Pierce County line; north on Pierce County line to Puget Sound; north along coast to mouth of Snohomish River and point of beginning.